

I'm sorry, but...

I need your help! I am struggling to find my place in this world. Here I am, a wife, a mother, a teacher, a friend, a leader ... and yet, I still feel so unsure. Some days I get up with a goal in mind, something I know that I will accomplish. I work hard, stay focused, and at the end of the night, I go to sleep with such peace of mind. Other days, I find it difficult to stay on task and wander from project to project. Does this sound familiar?

While reading my devotion, I came across a few passages that address just this situation. God's Word tells us to ask Him for wisdom and rely on His Truth, allowing our lives to be governed by His strength and knowledge.

When I was young, my parents often told me to use them as the excuse when I was confronted with a situation that I didn't feel wise enough to handle. For instance, when a friend asked me to go to an R-rated movie, I simply said, "My parents won't let me." Or if someone was having a party that I knew I shouldn't go to, I replied, "My parents won't let me." This served a dual purpose by allowing me a bit of extra time in a given situation and giving me the out when I was unsure how to react. My lack of wisdom was taken care of by my parents' wisdom.

Now that I am a mom, I have given my daughters the same advice. Still, as an adult, I am all too often faced with situations where I would like to fall back on that saying from my youth. God says to fully rely on Him, so I know can use that excuse any time I need it.

Try it sometime. "I'm sorry, but My Father won't let me!"

References: **James 1:2-8; I Kings 3:5-9**

Amy Bartels, LWML Leader Development Committee



Spotlight on Sage

When asked how she "serves the Lord with gladness," Sage Browne replied, "For me, it starts with conforming my mind to that of Christ's ... and recognizing the opportunities He presents." A Young Woman Representative from the New England District LWML,

Sage has been active in the LWML at Lutheran Church of The Savior, Bedford, Massachusetts. An active leader in the church's Vacation Bible School program, a regular volunteer at the Central Food Ministry, Lowell, Mass., and a participant in short-term mission trips to South Africa and Hungary, Sage currently holds the office of church council secretary. "It is my prayer that I captured the excitement of the Portland Convention, carried it back home, and, through my sharing, will encourage others!"

How many times do you have to ask?

If you have ever made multiple attempts to invite a young woman to join you at your local LWML society meeting only to be turned down again and again, you may be wondering if you should keep asking. I am here to tell you: KEEP ASKING!

It took two years of two women continually asking me and encouraging me for me to decide to attend a local meeting.

I am so thankful they cared enough to keep me on their invitation list, even when they must have been exhausted in asking! I wanted to join, but I was nervous about the time commitment and if joining yet another group would affect my family. I was also worried about fitting in with the other women, who had all been friends for many years, and uncertain about what tasks I would have to sign up to do.

When I finally did decide to go, those same women (the ones who had invited me numerous times) offered me a ride to the meeting, sat next to me, and kept me informed about the meeting process. After only one meeting, I realized that LWML was more than just another group to join: its mission-ministry impacts millions of lives throughout the world with the Gospel message.

So how many times do you have to ask? Most likely, more than once; and in some cases, you'll ask for years. Just remember: your efforts are certainly worth it! The thoughtfulness of your invitation will have an affect on the lives of young women in your church congregation, and your persistence will build a stronger LWML on local, district, and national levels as those young women eventually say, "Yes." So keep asking — and young women, consider saying, "YES!"

Cindy Phillips, Iowa District West

Quotable Quotes

It's not only about what you fit into your day, it's about how you fit it all in. And if it doesn't fit into my day, then it might not have been meant for today.

Sara Maloney

For more information, check out *Impressions*, the newsletter for Young Women, at lwml.org/resources/young_women.